

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 through 4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A semi-frozen liquid beverage dispensing machine having a bowl to contain semi-frozen beverage therein, which apparatus comprises:

at least one refrigerated storage cavity for receiving a bulk storage container of liquid beverage;

a fluid passageway tube extending between said bowl and said bulk storage container wherein said fluid passageway tube is within a refrigerated zone;

said bowl containing a helical auger blade which surrounds a cylindrical evaporator to scrape said semi-frozen beverage;

a pump to transport said liquid from said bulk storage container through said tube and into said bowl outside of said cylinder; and

a sensor to sense liquid level of said semi-frozen beverage in said bowl of said machine, said sensor connected to said pump.

6. (Original) A self-contained liquid storage and delivery apparatus as set forth in Claim 5 wherein said bulk storage container is a flexible membrane bag within a rigid box and includes a connection nipple.

7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Original) A semi-frozen liquid beverage dispensing machine as set forth in Claim
2 5 wherein said bulk storage container includes a radio frequency ID tag which communicates with
3 a transmitter/receiver in said machine.

1 9. (Currently Amended) A method to store, deliver and automatically fill liquid
2 beverage for supplying a separate, discrete semi-frozen liquid beverage machine having a bowl to
3 contain beverage products, which method comprises:

4 storing at least one bulk storage container of said beverage products in a refrigerated
5 storage cavity separate and discrete from said liquid beverage machine;

6 transporting said beverage products from said storage container in said refrigerated
7 storage cavity through a thermally conductive passageway into a bowl of said beverage machine by
8 pumping with a pump wherein said bowl contains a helical auger blade which surrounds a cylindrical
9 evaporator to scrape said semi-frozen beverage;

10 sensing liquid level with a liquid level sensor in said bowl in order to activate or
11 deactivate said pumping; and

12 activating said pumping to maintain said liquid level at a constant level.

1 10. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 9 including the additional step of removing
2 said bulk storage container of said liquid beverage from said cavity and replacing with another
3 storage container.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A method to store, deliver and automatically fill liquid
2 beverage for a semi-frozen liquid beverage machine having a bowl to contain beverage products,
3 which method comprises:

4 storing at least one bulk storage container of said beverage products in a refrigerated
5 storage cavity within said liquid beverage machine;

6 transporting said beverage products from said storage container in said refrigerated
7 storage cavity through a thermally conductive passageway into said bowl of said beverage machine,
8 wherein said bowl contains a helical auger blade which surrounds a cylindrical evaporator to scrape
9 said semi-frozen beverage; and

10 delivering water from a water supply to deliver water to a bowl.

1 12. (Currently Amended) A method to store, deliver and automatically fill liquid
2 beverage for a semi-frozen liquid beverage machine having a bowl to contain beverage products,
3 which method comprises:

4 storing at least one bulk storage container of said beverage products in a refrigerated
5 storage within said liquid beverage machine;

6 transporting said beverage products from said storage container in said refrigerated
7 storage cavity through a thermally conductive passageway into said bowl of said beverage machine,
8 wherein said bowl contains a helical auger blade which surrounds a cylindrical evaporator to scrape
9 said semi-frozen beverage; and

10 wherein the step of transporting said liquid beverage includes delivering said liquid
11 beverage to said bowl below the liquid level in said bowl.

1 Claims 13 through 16 (Canceled)

1 17. (Previously Added) A semi-frozen liquid beverage dispensing machine as set forth
2 in Claim 5 wherein said bowl is clear or transparent.

1 18. (New) A method as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said bowl is clear or transparent.